

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 SY-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 EB-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 /037 W

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4026

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS EFIN AO

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMCIT ALLAN WILLIAMS

REF: LUANDA 1201

1. AFTER TRYING WITHOUT SUCCESS TO TALK WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE SAYDI MINGAS, I CALLED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FINANCES NELSON DURING THE MORNING OF AUGUST 20 AND TOLD HIM THAT THE TWO ACCUSATIONS AGAINST WILLIAMS WERE UNFOUNDED; HIS BANK HAD NEVER GIVEN HIM PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION, I SAID AND THE CHARGE OF SMUGGLING FOREIGN EXCHANGE WAS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE.

2. NELSON SAID THAT ON THE FIRST ACCUSATION WILLIAMS IS GUILTY OF BAD FAITH, IF NOTHING ELSE. ON AUGUST 18 THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HAD ASKED CERTAIN KEY BANKERS TO HELP DURING AN EMERGENCY PHASE THAT HE INDICATED WOULD LAST FIFTEEN TO THIRTY DAYS. ACCORDING TO NELSON, WILLIAMS INDICATED HE WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE. IF WILLIAMS HAD THEN RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM CITIBANK NOT TO COOPERATE AND HAD BEEN TOLD TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, CONTINUED NELSON, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD BECAUSE HE TAKES HIS ORDERS FROM CITIBANK. BUT IF THAT WAS THE CASE, HE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST NOTIFIED THE MINISTER OF FINANCE. INSTEAD, HE PACKED UP WITHOUT A WORD AND WENT TO THE AIRPORT WITH SUCH A LARGE VOLUME OF BAGGAGE THAT THE AUTHORITIES SUSPECTED HE

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WAS FLEEING WITH NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS.

3. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SAID NELSON, THE GOVERNMENT FELT IT HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DETAIN WILLPAMS AND DO AN INVENTORY OF THE BANCO INTERUNIDO TO DETERMINE IF ANYTHING WERE MISSING. THE COORDINATINGHCOMMISSION IS NOW DOING THE INVENTORY AND NELSON HOPES TO HAVE A REPORT BEFORE THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 20. IF ALL IS IN ORDER, WILLIAMS WILL SET FREE. THE FORTY-EIGHT HOUR DETENTION PERIOD AUTHORIZED BY LAW WILL BE UP THE MORNING OF AUGUST 21 AND NELSON IS CERTAIN THE CASE WILL BE RESOLVED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER BY THAT TIME.

4. I TALKED WITH WILLIAMS AT 1400 TO GIVE HIM NELSON'S ESTIMATE ON THE TIME OF HIS RELEASE.

KILLORAN

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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